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Message from the Mayor

Our region works most effectively, I believe, when its leaders work hand in hand to solve the challenges that we all face. That's why last week, I hosted the two governors of our region for our fourth regional summit. Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner joined me for several hours of dialogue at the John A. Wilson Building, where we discussed many issues and signed a Memorandum of Understanding creating the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC).

The IAQC will help to provide streamlined planning and greater air quality benefits for the region. The Council, made up of the six secretaries of the Environment and Transportation from the three jurisdictions, will review the regional air quality planning process in the region to ensure that the states and the District meet their shared goals of improved air quality, including compliance with the new federal standards for ozone and fine particulates, and efficient transportation.

At our fourth regional meeting, we found major areas of common ground—the agreement we signed on air quality will go a long way to addressing a significant issue that spans jurisdictions. Working together as a region is critical as we seek to improve our shared resources—our air, our water and our public lands.

The three of us also discussed homeland security, including the regional notification system, and how the Defense Department's closure and relocation of military facilities will affect the region. Other topics discussed included gang activity, traffic, Metro funding and baseball.

As most of our readers know well, our region is booming. Here in the District, we're in the midst of a \$34 billion development cycle—with cranes dotting our skyline, new housing units rising, new retail arriving and throngs of visitors returning to the Nation's Capital.

Our tremendous strides in economic development have been a blessing in many ways. But with growth comes new challenges.

During our discussions, I focused on how Governors Warner and Ehrlich and I can work together to continue to boost tourism in our city. As we address our challenges, we must also create new ways to increase tourism across our region. The more visitors we have, the more we build up our region as a world-class destination. And with new visitors come more revenue and more funds for our vital needs.

Working together, we're making progress. Hotel occupancy rate continues at a high level, hovering in the 85 percent range. This is a great example of regional collaboration and cooperation. We worked together on last summer's opening of the National World War II Memorial.

Our three tourism entities hosted 68 tour operators from 12 different countries earlier this month. This was an effort to attract more international visitors, who often stay longer and spend more. Looking ahead, we're planning the "2006 Star Spangled Banner Summer" featuring the reopening of the National Portrait Gallery and the reinstallation of the Star Spangled Banner.

I am happy that Governors Warner and Ehrlich and I have maintained a strong working relationship to help improve life for residents across the Metropolitan area.



"River of Hope" Painting Unveiled

On June 1, I unveiled "River of Hope," a painting by 22-year-old Tendani Mpulubusi which will hang on a permanent basis in the ground floor press briefing room in the John A. Wilson Building. Tendani created this particular piece to represent youth empowerment.

Tendani is a young man with a tremendous amount of drive and imagination. We are thrilled that he is donating the piece for display in the press room at the John A. Wilson Building. I am sure that it will provide moments of inspiration to everyone who attends meetings in this busy room.

Tendani has been drawing since an early age. He attended Guilford Tech University and Prince Georges Community College, and he participated in the Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) program where he was certified in audiovisual production and film editing. Through the ECC, he photographed presidential events, painted murals and performed more than 1,500 hours of community service.

Tendani graduated from the ECC and received an Americorps scholarship in 2003. He currently works as an apprentice with the Corcoran Gallery/College of Art, Art Reach program, and he sells his own work on a continuing basis. To learn more about the Earth Conservation Corps, please visit <http://ecc1.org>

Southeast Federal Center Closer to Reality

On June 2, I joined federal and local officials to "turn over the keys" to Forest City Washington, a private developer, to begin work on the Southeast Federal Center project. This development will transform a 44-acre neighborhood with residential, commercial, retail and cultural aspects on the banks of the Anacostia River.

What a difference a few years, a lot of planning and a lot of hard work makes. Today, our vision for the Anacostia River becoming a centerpiece of the Nation's Capital is taking shape. We're implementing our vision more and more every day. In the Near Southeast neighborhood, we are experiencing one of the largest waterfront transformations in the country.

Our vision is for a mixed-use and mixed income neighborhood extending Capitol Hill to the waterfront. And we've got several catalysts:

- The restoration of the Navy Yard has brought new workers and foot traffic, jobs and dollars to the area.
- The US Department of Transportation (US-DOT) will be a catalyst, and it will also be the largest "Green Roof" on the East Coast.
- Our planned ballpark for the Washington Nationals will be a catalyst as well. My vision is for the ballpark to spark new development and new visitors to the Anacostia Waterfront.

And a few months ago we announced that we're in the design stage of a state of the art "Washington Canal Park" just north of the US-DOT headquarters.

Of course, housing is a key part of our vision. My goal and my commitment is to create as much housing opportunity as we can on the Southeast Federal Center site. I firmly believe that this Center represents a prime opportunity to develop new housing along our Anacostia Waterfront.



Getting Ready for Summertime with Summer Programs

Summer is almost upon us, and that means lots of activities for the youth of our city.

Our city's DC Summer Fun 2005 Program Guide, highlighting programs and activities for children and young people this summer, is now available online and in print. The guide is designed to help our city's residents find activities for kids this summer—including education and reading programs, sports programs, and free summer meals.

Free summer meals for young people 18 years old and under will be offered at 300 locations across the city, from June 22 until August 31. Locations include parks and recreation centers, community centers, schools, churches, housing complexes and apartment buildings. No enrollment is required—District residents may inquire about the sites by calling 202-463-6211 or by visiting www.summeryouthprogram.dc.gov.

Throughout the summer, our Department of Health will conduct health education and outreach programs for children and adolescents that include free immunization clinics, blood lead level screening and maternal and family health. The DC Department of Parks and Recreation provides many exciting camps throughout the city—young people may choose from tennis, swimming, arts and crafts, sailing, creative arts, sports conditioning, reading for fun, trips and more. The summer camp season begins June 27 and ends August 19.

Since 2002, the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation has used public and private funds to support community and faith-based programs in providing enrichment opportunities for children and youth in the city.

To learn more about summer programs, District residents may call 202-463-6211 or visit www.summeryouthprogram.dc.gov

Project WISH from our Department of Health

Last week, along with participating in the Race for the Cure (which benefits breast cancer efforts) I was pleased to announce good news from our city's Department of Health: Project WISH (Women Into Staying Healthy)—the District's program providing breast and cervical cancer screen for under-insured or uninsured women is back in business.

As a result of a new work plan and our efforts to revamp and streamline operations at Project WISH, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has lifted its funding restrictions, which have been in place since December 2004. The funding restrictions meant that the Department of Health could not enroll new clients in this critical program.

The Department of Health made a number of improvements designed to enhance our services to residents including ensuring that our provider network met CDC quality of care standards on timeliness of service delivery. Although Project WISH does not deliver direct care, the new procedures will ensure that all patients who are enrolled and screened through our providers receive complete follow-up and care.

As many of our readers know, breast and cervical cancer have a huge impact on women in and around the Nation's Capital. Our city ranks first among all states for breast and cervical cancer mortality. I join others to work to spread the word that we can make a difference and we are making a difference.

Early detection from mammograms and pap tests reduces mortality rates. It's a fact. And it's my goal to reach out to our region's low income women who don't have insurance and who need our help.

For more information on Project WISH call 202-727-1000.



District Activities



Mayor Williams unveiled the "River of Hope" painting presented by Earth Conservation Corps Graduate Tendani Mpulubusi. The painting will be placed in the Wilson Building to serve as a symbol of our city's commitment to the District's youth and our goal of restoring the beauty of the Anacostia River.



During a ceremony at the Southeast Federal Center, federal officials "turned over the keys" to Forest City Washington, a private developer, to begin the transformation of a 44-acre neighborhood with residential, commercial, retail and cultural aspects on the banks of the Anacostia River.

Community News

- [Housing Department Sponsors Homebuying Seminars for DC Employees](#)
- [Council Approves New City Center](#)
- [Office on Latino Affairs Announces \\$1.4 Million in Available Grants](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

6/11	Capital Pride Parade 6:30 pm Begins at Francis Junior High School (24th and N Streets, NW) Ends at 17th and R Streets, NW
6/12	Capital Pride Festival 11 am Pennsylvania Avenue, NW between 3rd and 7th Streets, NW Constitution Avenue, NW between 7th and Pennsylvania, NW
6/25 – 6/26	National Capital Barbecue Battle Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Between 9th and 14th Streets Contact: (202) 828-3099
6/30	Summer Kick-off 10 am – 3 pm Anacostia Park 1800 Anacostia Drive, SE

